

Testimony of Tom Swan
Executive Director, Connecticut Citizen Action group (CCAG)
Before the Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee

In support of

[SB 21](#) An Act Concerning A State-Wide Property Tax on Certain Residential Real Property

[SB 28](#) An Act Establishing a Capital Gains Surcharge

[SB 29](#) An Act Concerning the Earned Income Tax Credit

March 3, 2022

Senator Fonfara, Representative Scanlon and other members of the Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee my name is Tom Swan, and I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG). On behalf of our thousands of member families I want to thank you for having today's hearing.

The pandemic has made clear that Inequality is out of control. According to Forbes, 14 of Connecticut billionaires increased their wealth by nearly \$15,000,000,000 between March of 2020 and January of 2022. The Department of Revenue Service's report says that on average people making under \$45,000 would pay 4 times the percentage of their income in taxes as would these 14 billionaires and people making \$75,000 would pay three times as much.

The pandemic also reminded us of the need for a strong public sector. We should not be asking our frontline workers to be burdening a larger percentage of the costs for everyone's public health, parks, safety, schools, and transportation than these billionaires. It is high time this legislature steps up and adequately fund areas like education and do it in a fair manner.

Therefore, we want to thank you for raising and holding a hearing today on [SB 21](#) An Act Concerning A State-Wide Property Tax on Certain Residential Real Property, [SB 28](#) An Act Establishing a Capital Gains Surcharge, [SB 29](#) An Act Concerning the Earned Income Tax Credit as initial steps to address this inequality.

[SB 21](#) An Act Concerning A State-Wide Property Tax on Certain Residential Real Property. Connecticut's over reliance on local property taxes to finance education is a major contributor to inequality in our state. By establishing a statewide mansion tax in SB 21 can start to address this. The fact is dedicated to special education and helping to desegregate our schools is a smart proposal and will be helpful to schools throughout the state. Who can argue that a single mother living two blocks from the capitol should pay a higher rate on her 10-year-old minivan than Bob Stefanowski pays for his mansion in Madison? We believe this proposal is particularly important in terms of people who maintain a mansion as a second home in CT. These homeowners benefit from public services, but do not contribute their fair share. This bill can start to change this.

[SB 28](#) An Act Establishing a Capital Gains Surcharge is a basic issue of fairness and failure to adopt policies like this will only perpetuate the growing inequality we are struggling with today.

[SB 29](#) An Act Concerning the Earned Income Tax Credit is an important tool to assist our low-income residents to survive. The success of the federal child tax credit in reducing child poverty

before it expired has been widely acclaimed. This is a small, but significant step to help struggling families. We urge its passage.

Thank you for your consideration.